

**Sherborn Shelf :
History, Genealogy,
Demographics Section**

**A Snapshot Photo Tour
of Sherborn in 2002**

by Elizabeth L Johnson

**To Celebrate the
350th Anniversary of Settlement**

**Funded by the Sherborn Historical Society
May, 2002**

For Reference

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A SNAPSHOT PHOTO TOUR OF SHERBORN IN 2002

By Elizabeth L. Johnson

To Celebrate the
350th Anniversary of Settlement

A Copy was also presented to the Historical Society
of Sherborne, Dorset, England,

In honor and memory of its late Town Historian,
Mr. Gerald H. D. Pitman

Funded by the Sherborn Historical Society
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BRIEF HISTORY OF SHERBORN, MASS.

By Elizabeth L. Johnson

Sherborn marks its 325th anniversary of incorporation on October 21, 1999 and its 350th anniversary of settlement in 2002. From its settlement in the 1650s until the 1940s it was a farming community. Since then it has shifted gradually from a rural to a suburban town.

Indians

Little is known about the local Indians. There appear to have been seasonal settlements, for there are references to abandoned "old" fields in several parts of town and artifacts have been found at numerous places throughout the town. However, even the name of the tribe is uncertain, for Sherborn seems to have been at the interface of the Massachusetts, Nipmuck, and Wampanoag tribes. It may be that most of those who hunted and farmed in the immediate area had died in the epidemic that swept the coastal tribes in 1616/17. Several Indians connected with the Natick "Praying Indian" community kept land in Sherborn after its incorporation. Thomas Awussamoag continued to live on Brush Hill and Peter Ephraim on the hill which still bears his name.

English Settlement

The Indian name "Boggestow" was used for the fourteen-mile stretch of the Charles River valley from South Natick to the falls at Medway. The English settlers sought it out because of the abundant marsh grass growing on the wide flood plain—grass that was necessary if they were to winter over their cattle. In the 1640s and later the colonial legislature, the Great and General Court, frequently gave large grants (200-1074 acres) called "farnes" to individuals it owed money to. These owners often sold the parcels later to settlers, the first resale in Sherborn being to Thomas Holbrook and Nicholas Wood in 1652. (That is where the settlement date comes from.) They and the somewhat later Leland, Breck, Hill, Bullard, Fairbank, and Morse families bought additional early grants and lived there while retaining their legal citizenship in the nearest incorporated town: Medfield.

Town

By 1674 Boggestow had grown sufficiently to be incorporated as a "new" town (i.e. the land had never been part of another town) and was arbitrarily named "Sherborne" by the General Court. The Puritans originated the township area of 36 square miles, which continued later all across the continent. Sherborn, squeezed between Natick and Medfield (which then included Millis and Medway) had such an awkward "T" shape that the General Court allowed an exchange of 4000 acres with the Natick Indians in 1679. It was that new land which formed most of the present town.

In the decade after King Philip's War (1675-6) Sherborn settlers organized the local government and drew up a Social Covenant, paid the Indians for title to the land, attracted a saw miller, built a meeting house, hired the first minister, and granted home lots throughout most of the present town. In the second decade they formed a town militia company, hired a schoolmaster, and acquired a grist mill. Thus by 1700 they had developed the elements considered necessary to be considered an "established" town. In 1724 the western area broke away, to become the town of Holliston.

General Development

Through the 1800s Sherborn remained a small and relatively self-sufficient farming community. Little industry developed because

of the lack of good water power, although there continued to be saw and grist mills on several of the small, intermittent streams. However, apples grew well, and there were always small cider mills. With the coming of both the railroad (in 1870) and steam power, one mill developed further until by 1889 it was advertised as the "largest refined cider mill in the world." At that time it pressed over 1.25 million gallons of cider per season and exported "Champagne" cider as far west as Nebraska and Texas and as far east as England and Belgium.

Beginning in the late 1700s several small cottage industries developed, particularly along North Main Street. They produced guns, shoes, willow baskets, whips, pitchforks, and edge tools. After the Erie Canal in 1825 New England could no longer compete with the Midwest in producing grain. Sherborn farmers turned to mixed farming and particularly dairy farming and cranberry growing. People brought their crops and crafts to the Boston markets via stagecoach and, later, by railroad.

The twentieth century brought new trends. In the early 1900s several wealthy families moved into different parts of town and built estates for either year-round or summer use. Some already knew the area from having ridden with the Norfolk Hunt Club. Those estate-farms remaining today are located primarily along the Charles River—the area of first settlement. Dairy and poultry raising increased in importance, as did service-related jobs. The building of the Reformatory (now MCI: Framingham) and housing developments along Beaver Street brought needs for town water and sewage that the town could not afford to provide. As a result, the towns voted to allow the annexation of that area of "North Sherborn" to Framingham in 1925.

Following World War II the town began to change rapidly from one with a relatively static population of 1500 to a growing and transient one. In 1958 there was a new town business district; then the next year saw the first of the new housing developments at Parks Drive; by 1970 Sherborn's population had more than doubled. The disappearance of family farms accelerated until today most of the few that remain are estate farms.

Houses

Because the town was relatively poor in the late 1800s and early 1900s, few people "modernized" their old houses by tearing them down and rebuilding. As a result many of the houses built in the 1700s and early 1800s remain, as well as six or more with late 1600s portions. Two National Register Historic Districts, established in 1986, include both the old town center and a two-mile strip along North Main Street; and individual houses scattered throughout the town were also listed: a total of 77 old houses. A very small town Historic District also exists in the old town center.

Government

Since it was formalized in 1679 the town has been governed by a combination of elected and appointed volunteers and a few key salaried officials. Most years there have been three selectmen (sometimes five) and since 1969 a paid town administrator to deal with day to day problems. Since incorporation the citizens have voted annual expenditures in a traditional, open Town Meeting. Qualifications for voting have changed from males (21 years and over), to both sexes (18 and over); while residency has replaced the former religious, property, or poll tax requirements. Town boards and committees continue to depend almost entirely upon volunteer participation, as they have since the first Town Meeting held in January of 1675. Hopefully the town will continue to remain strong and vibrant for at least the next 325 years.

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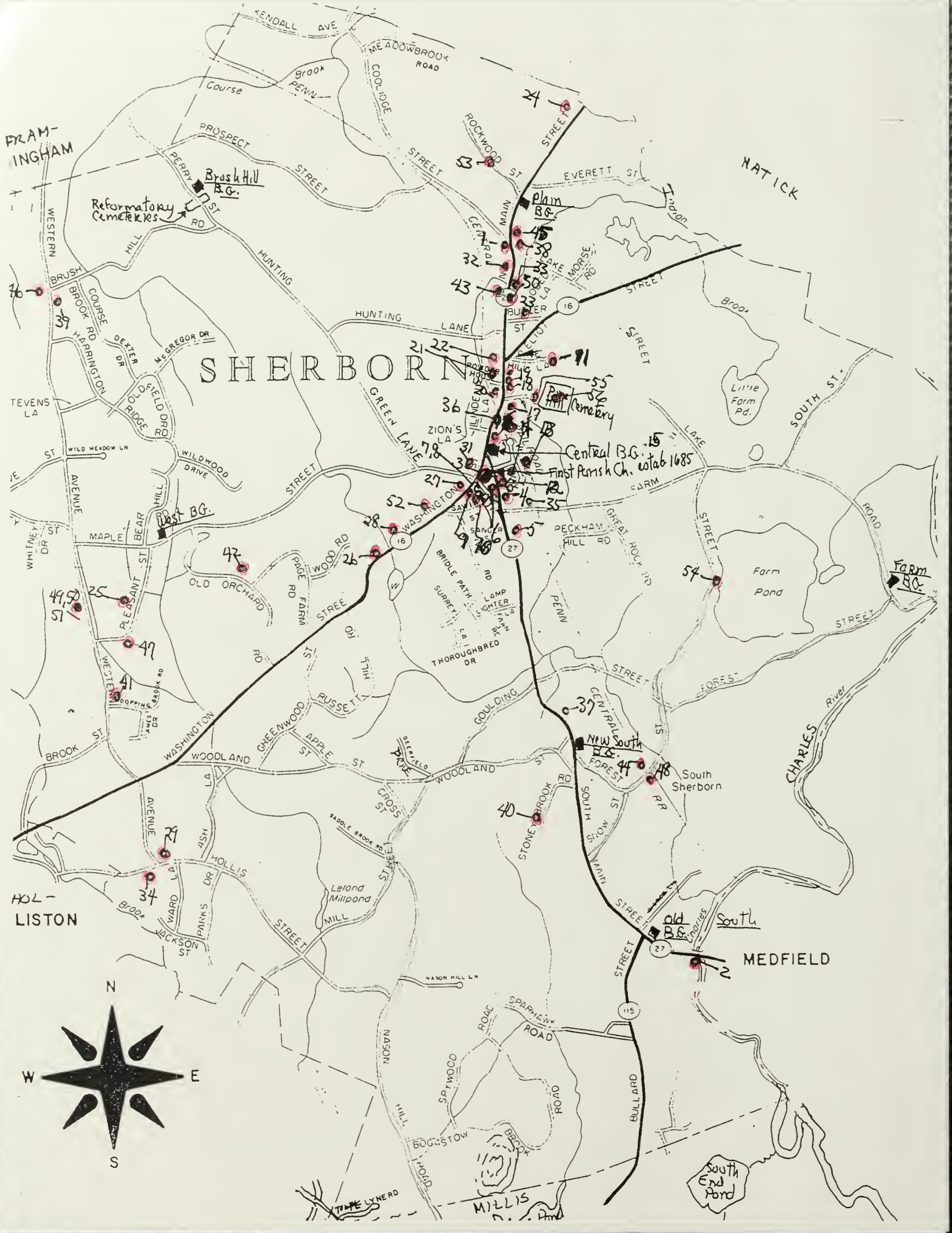
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FRAM-
INGHAM

NATICK

SHERBORN

MEDFIELD

HOL-
LISTON



Brush Hill
B.G.

Reformatory
Cemeteries

Plain
B.G.

East B.G.

Central B.G.
First Parish Ch. estab 1685

New South
B.G.

Old B.G.

Farm
B.G.

South
End Pond

Little
Farm
Pd.

Farm
Pond

TIME LYNERD

MILLIS
Pond

PHOTO TOUR OF SHERBORN: 2002

Introduction: Sherborn has developed as a linear town along two roads from Boston (now routes 16 and 27--roughly equivalent to English numbered "A" routes) which enter at the north end of town, join near the present commercial center and go south together for about a half mile, then cross and separate just north of the old town center and continue respectively to Hartford, CT, and Providence, RI. With a few exceptions the streets were named for early settlers who lived in that particular part of the town.

All of New England was once covered by glacial ice. Most of Sherborn is covered with thick layers of glacial outwash (clay, gravel, eskers, etc.) which disturbed the original drainage patterns, leaving about one-third of the land area as swamp or wetlands. Because of the depth of the outwash sediments there are only a few outcroppings of bedrock. Rocks abound, but they are rounded and not good for building. Laboriously removed from cultivated fields, they were used, however, for stonewalls around fields and pastures.

The town's present population is about 4,500 people, most adults work in either Boston or the surrounding high tech area (about an hour's commute by car, or by train from the adjoining town of Framingham). There is no industry in the town, consequently all town services are funded by town property taxes as voted annually at the open Town Meeting.

Like most New England towns, Sherborn's houses and buildings are built of wood, except for four brick public buildings, and two stone and two of concrete block. Roofs are generally asphalt shingles; although there are several of nineteenth century slate and a few with wood shingles (copying the 18th century style). There is neither municipal water nor sewage (each house instead has its own well and septic system), therefore houses require large land areas: the town has zones of one, two, and three acres, depending on the part of town. (A few of the older houses in the town center have smaller lots.) People have large lawns, many maintained by local landscaping services.

The section on houses gives a selection of typical ones from different time periods. The names given are their historic ones, referring to their original or early owners, and are taken in most cases from forms in the "Historic Resources Survey" compiled by the Sherborn Historical Commission (although most people do not generally refer to them by those names but by those of the current owners or street numbers). The majority of photos are of buildings in the town center areas (see map).

1. **Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary Sign:** For the 1930 celebration of its founding, Massachusetts erected one or more similar signs concerning town names and points of note throughout the Commonwealth. "Boggastow" (spelled various ways) was the Indian name for the fourteen-mile flat stretch along the Charles River; once a Massachusetts Bay Colony town became incorporated it usually requested an English name or, like Sherborn, was given one arbitrarily by the colonial legislature. (It is as yet unclear why the name "Sherborne" was chosen, and its spelling has varied greatly.)

2. **The Charles River,** looking upstream from the South Main Street bridge leading from Sherborn to Medfield. The reason the early settlers crossed the Charles River from Medfield to "Boggestow" was for the wild hay growing on the flood plains, hay they needed in order to winter over their cattle for the first few years until they had cleared land for growing the more nutritious "English grasses."

Sherborn was part of the third ring of town settlement around Boston (first ports like Boston and Salem, then on major rivers, then inland). Some of the earliest Sherborn settlers had been born or had lived for some years in older Massachusetts towns.





3. First Parish Church, Unitarian-Universalist, (11 Washington Street) was built in 1830 and is a good example in wood of Doric Greek Revival. It is the third building on the site, the first having been built c. 1685. In most New England towns the single, tax-supported church divided into liberal and Trinitarian parishes between 1810 and 1830, the Puritan Congregational church finally being disestablished in Massachusetts in 1833.

4. Members of Pilgrim Church, now United Church of Christ, (25 South Main Street) withdrew down the hill from First Parish in 1830 to form a conservative parish and built this wooden building in the same year. In 1853 the building was moved, raised, greatly remodelled, and painted brown to resemble the then popular brownstone. Both churches had long, one-story, horse sheds behind and beside them until the 1930s.

5. There was no Roman Catholic church in Sherborn until 1925, when the Boston Archdiocese purchased the former town almshouse to remodel into the Saint Theresa Chapel. Parishoners replaced that building, long outgrown, with this fine, new Saint Theresa Church in 1993 (35 South Main Street), also built of wood.

6. The 1858 Town House (3 Sanger Street), located on one corner of the "Common," was built as the town's first Town Hall and included its first publicly-funded High School. Built of wood in the Italianate Revival style, over the years it has also housed private meetings, public library, certain town offices, police station, and cable TV station. During the period 1986-1992 it was restored by a non-profit foundation of townspeople and now functions as a community center.





7. The Sherborn Public Library (4 Sanger Street), donated in 1971 by the Richard Saltonstall family, provides space for our high-quality, small library. The architectural award-winning building stands on the site of the 1874 Sawin Academy-Dowse High School, a high Victorian brick building which was demolished in 1962.

8. Crowning the Library lawn is a Copper Beech, originally planted in 1876 as part of the Sawin Academy grounds. One of the larger trees in town, its trunk measures 15'8" at chest height and has a drip line diameter of 83.'

There have been a wide variety of ornamental trees planted in Sherborn but the main native ones are: Oaks (red and white groups), Red Maples, Ash, and White Pine, with a few Dogwood, Hemlock, and Beech in limited ecological niches. Elderberry here is a shrub, not the same species as in Europe.

9. The Georgian Revival Town Offices (19 Washington Street) is currently (2002) being completely renovated. Built in 1909-10 as a four-room elementary school (eight grades), it replaced the seven wooden, one-room, neighborhood schoolhouses. The enlargement in 1950 includes the current entrance wall, which has the Town Seal in the pediment over the doorway. The building served as a school until 1981. Then it became offices for the various major town officials: Selectmen, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Assessors, and the Boards of Health, Planning, Conservation, etc.

10. The new Police Station (17 Washington Street), completed in 2001, is located behind the Town Offices and provides long-needed space for the fourteen-member Police force and communication center. The police regularly use two patrol cars; they also have available two other marked and two unmarked vehicles, and one motorcycle, plus two mountain-bicycles (for woodland trails). The communication system handles radio traffic for fire and rescue as well as police calls. The enhanced-911 phone system automatically shows the address of all incoming emergency calls.





11. Pine Hill Elementary School (Pine Hill Lane) houses Sherborn children for Kindergarten through Grade 5 (c. age 10). The present building was built in 1957, with major additions in 1971 and 1998. Currently grades 6 through 12 go by schoolbus to the Dover-Sherborn Regional Middle School and High School located next to each other in the next town, Dover, just across the Charles River.

12. Sherborn has only a few stores, which are located both here and at the new commercial center. One can buy fast foods from the Sandwich Shop (11 South Main Street), from Peter's Pizza II or in the Sherborn Citgo (gasoline) & Convenience Store with its drive-by Dunkin Donut window (21 S. Main Street). At the former site are also Horse N' Habit (riding gear) and Sherborn Wine and Spirits.

13. "Woodhaven" (Village Way) provides town-built elderly housing (24 rental units) within easy walking distance from both old and new town centers.

14. "Leland Farms" (Leland Drive, off Village Way) are condominiums adjacent to Woodhaven which were built by the town in 2000 and sold at low-cost and regular market prices (total 17 units).





15. "Memory," (1924) by American sculptor, Cyrus Dallin, is the focus of memorials to those servicemen killed in previous American wars. It is on part of the Central Burying Ground, one of the town's seven, small, old graveyards. Located at the junction of North and South Main with Washington Street (commonly called "The Split") and once part of the town Common, this burial ground holds the oldest extant gravestone, dated 1684. The daffodils are part of the more than 100,000 bulbs planted throughout the town over the last two decades as a Daffodil Trail.

16. Adjoining the Central Burying Ground is the brick, Life Experience School (4 North Main Street), originally the town's first public library building and now a school for disabled and terminally-ill children. Behind it is the Peace Abbey and beside it the Pacifist Memorial (1994), with its statue of Gandhi by Lado V. Goudjabidze and mounted quotations from world peace leaders.

17. The town's major office building is "20 North Main Street". It houses a travel agency, real estate agency, and a number of small offices including doctor, dentist, lawyers, architect, landscape architect, financial advisors, etc.

18. Just doubled in size in 2001, Fire Station One (22 North Main Street) houses the town's Fire and Rescue Department. The Fire Squads (c. 48 people) and Rescue Squad (c. 28 people) are made up of men and women volunteers, many serving on both. (They are paid a nominal amount for time spent training and serving on actual calls.) The town owns and operates an ambulance and seven large firetrucks, including two attack trucks (each with 1000 gallons of water on board and one with an hydraulic ladder), a 1500 gallon tank truck, a reel truck with a mile of 5" diameter hose, a brush truck, etc. Some of the trucks are housed in Station Two (on Farm Road), a large garage purposely sited on the other side of the railroad tracks from this, the main station.





19. Pease's Countryside (28 North Main Street) is one of several real estate firms in Sherborn and is located opposite the town's main commercial block.

Next to it is Rose's Automotive (26 North Main Street), the only remaining auto repair business in town. It was built in 1926 as both repair garage and gas station and obviously has been enlarged several times.

20. The 1958 Commercial Block (29 North Main Street) includes a Post Office, apothecary, dry cleaner, and branch bank. The gray building on the left is C & L Frosty, a favorite stop for ice cream and fast foods.

21. The Col. Samuel Bullard House (33 North Main Street) in 1987 was added to and greatly remodelled into the present Sherborn Inn, with rooms, several dining rooms, and a tavern with a mural of Sherborn scenes. There was some kind of tavern on the site possibly as early as the 1760s, and a malt house across the street.

22. The Whitney-Paul Tavern and Barn (41 North Main Street) have gone through many changes: farm, insurance office, tavern, stage coach stop (note the unusually tall front doors on the barn), orchard, country inn, and presently apartments and offices.





23. The Town Highway Garage (11 Butler Street) houses all the town trucks, tractors, front-end loaders, etc., and their various snow plows, sanders, and field and roadside mowing equipment. The town gasoline pumps are here, where the police and fire/rescue vehicles also gas up.

24. The Transfer Station (153 North Main) is where individual homeowners take their trash (or hire a private carrier to do so). Different materials go into the different large trailers, which are then trucked at town expense to a regional incinerator for burning or to a recycling center.

HOUSES:

25. Because of its rural setting on a narrow country lane, the Twitchell-Stone House (32 Pleasant Street), built c. 1710, still gives the feeling of Sherborn in the early eighteenth century.

26. The Bull-Phips House (70 Washington Street), built c. 1706, is typical of the town's early eighteenth century houses in having a center-chimney, leanto ("saltbox") design. Many were built first as "hall-chamber" houses (one room down, one room up, with chimney on one end and a small cellar). Later most were added to on the other side, with rear leantos often added still later. Renovations here in the 1980s unearthed fragments of small, diamond-shaped glass from earlier front casement windowpanes.





27. The Hill-Brown-Flagg House (22 Washington Street) began as a small house in the 1740s and was enlarged in the 1770s by one of Sherborn's ministers, who held a private "classical school" here during the week--the only college preparatory course offered in town. He was criticized for shortening his mid-winter sermons to ten to fifteen minutes (instead of several hours) in the unheated church. He also did a great deal to improve local orchards by encouraging and teaching grafting of fruit trees.

28. The Richard Sanger House (60 Washington Street) was built c. 1740s in the next style: a one-room deep, center-chimney gambrel. Rear lean-tos were added at two later times. Most houses, including this one, remained unpainted until well into the nineteenth century.

29. The Addington Gardner House (128 Hollis Street) is one of the few typical Georgian farmhouses (mid-1700s) remaining in town, although its core probably dates to the late 1600s. Individual surrounding fields bear the names of at least two of Gardner's sons, responsible for clearing them. As "Century Farm" it remained a prosperous dairy farm until sold in the 1960s, when those same fields were developed into the town's first new housing subdivision.

30. The Dr. Tapley Wyeth House (46 North Main Street) is fairly typical of the many truncated hip-roofed houses popular in the late eighteenth century in town. The main part is one room deep, with wooden (insulating) shutters that slide into the walls. Like many of the houses along North Main Street it has an eighteenth century rear ell, indicating that the main block replaced some kind of earlier, seventeenth century house.





31. The Col. Calvin Sanger House (8 Washington Street) is the town's finest Federal (Adam period) house. When he built it in 1819, Sherborn's then master builder, Ebenezer Mann, proudly remarked that you could fill the front parlor up with water to the windowsills and it would not leak a drop. It had expensive French wallpaper and running water (probably the first in town for both). Calvin Sanger was one of the few early industrialists in Sherborn, owning much of a cotton mill in nearby Framingham.

32. The Benjamin Dowse House (91 North Main Street), built c. 1830, is one of the town's finer Federal period houses, with an elliptical arched fan over the door. The main block probably replaced a seventeenth century house, for it also has a much older back ell.

The Dowse family came to Sherborn as refugees during the Battle of Bunker Hill (1775) and for the next century continued their "cottage industry" trade of leatherworking: tanning hides, and making britches, gloves, whips, and shoes. This is one of nine houses built for Dowse family members in this area--still called "Dowse's Corner."

33. The only one-room school remaining in town is the Plain District School (60 North Main Street). Massachusetts in 1642 was the first colony to require every town of fifty or more families to offer primary education for its children. Sherborn hired its first schoolmaster in 1694, to teach in designated men's houses in the various parts of town; the town built its first schoolhouse in 1724. Children walked to one of the seven neighborhood schools like this until 1909; after that they walked to the brick Center School or rode there on school "barges"--wagons or sleds with low benches along the sides.

34. The Delia Gardner Leland House (133 Hollis Street), built c. 1845, is a good Sherborn example of "Country Greek Revival," with its gable end toward the street, typical doorway with sidelights and entablature, and fully pedimented attic.





35. The Michael Guryn House (15 Farm Road) is a typical "Cape Cod" Cottage built in Sherborn in the mid-nineteenth century. The wing ("ell") on the right once served as a cobbler's shop, where the owner probably hand-sewed "brogans"--the heavy work shoes then made in Sherborn and neighboring towns. The carriage house on the left had room for horse stall and buggy, with hay storage on the floor above. The "Cape Cod Cottage" style still remains popular, with a number of similar Capes built in the twentieth century, especially through the 1950s and 1960s.

36. The George Clark House and barn (16 North Main Street), built c. 1853, are among the town's few Italianate Revival buildings. Their original owner ran a small general store in the town center, one of several then in town.

Beside the house runs a railroad track built in 1870, that linked the next town, Framingham (a rail connection hub for all of New England) with Mansfield and its links to southern Massachusetts and New York City. Available rail transportation enabled farmers to ship products more easily the 15-20 miles to nearby Boston and workers to commute to jobs in Framingham, Medfield, and other neighboring towns. However, automobiles drove the local passenger rail service out of business by 1933, and since then there have been a declining number of freight trains using the line.

37. Of the very little house building that took place in the late nineteenth century, most was done for the owners of the Holbrook Cider Mill, the major industry in the town at that time. The Charles Holbrook House (137 South Main Street) is one of two mansard-roofed (Second French Empire style) houses in town.

38. The C. Arthur Dowse House (1 Lake Street), built in 1907, is one of the few Queen Anne style houses in town. It is one of the nine Dowse family houses at "Dowse's Corner."





39. The Dominic Errico House (51 Western Avenue) is typical of the many ranch houses built in Sherborn in the 1950s and 1960s.

40. Subdivision houses. From 1880 to 1955 Sherborn's population remained virtually static at c. 1400; then between 1955 and 1980 it tripled, as more and more people moved to country suburbs still within commuting distance of Boston. In 2002 it remains c. 4,500.

Between 1960-1980 there were twelve housing sub-divisions developed in the one-acre and two-acre zones. Some houses were built to designs specified by the future owners. Modular houses by the "Deck" and "Acorn" companies were popular, like this "Acorn House" (26 Stoney Brook Road) built in the early 1970s.

41. Most sub-division houses, however, built by the contractors "on speculation," were in the two story, colonial style like this one (1 Dopping Brook Road).

42. There were also a few of "modern" design like the Martin Stark House (47 Old Orchard Road).

Land prices have risen steadily, particularly in the last two decades of the twentieth century, until sometimes the land is worth more than the buildings on them. One concern is that contractors are increasingly buying small older houses and tearing them down, to replace them with larger and more ostentatious houses, nicknamed by those who dislike them: "McMansions," "Starter Castles," etc. It will be a major challenge to keep a balance between the old and the new.





NINETEENTH CENTURY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

43. The Partridge Fork Factory (55 North Main Street) produced fine quality steel pitchforks, cranberry rakes, garden forks, etc. in the 1820s and 1830s. Now a residence, it is one of two stone buildings in town and one of two Sherborn commercial buildings remaining from the nineteenth century.

44. At its peak the Jonathan Holbrook & Sons Cider Mill (51 Forest Street) included two large, two-story buildings and each season produced over 1.25 million gallons of champagne cider, which they sold all over eastern U.S.A. About a third of their pressing they even sent by sailing ship to Liverpool and London for resale. After a disastrous fire in 1909 the company was sold to P. McCarthy & Son, which bottled and sold sweet cider and a line of new, carbonated, non-alcoholic, "soft" drinks until the late 1930s. The building remaining now, used as office and storage, is only about one quarter the area of the originals.

FARMS:

45. Orchards have been important in town since the first settlement in the 1650s, and until c. 1945 there were a number of large ones, while nearly everyone grew a few producing trees. The last large commercial orchard is C. A. Dowse & Son (100 North Main Street), which raises a wide variety of eating apples, presses sweet cider, and also sells bedding plants and vegetables at its farmstand.

The other farmstand is Sunshine Farm (43 Kendall Avenue), which raises vegetables and "pick your own" strawberries. It used to be a large dairy, with a restaurant and ice cream stand.

46. Highbush Blueberries grow wild in the many acres of swampy land in town; this one, Humphrey's (46 Western Avenue), is a commercial, "pick your own" patch planted with a number of cultivated varieties.

With few actual farms left in town, some people keep farm animals for pets and hobbies, such as horses, sheep, beef cattle, a few rabbits and chickens; while a few raise exotics like peacocks and guinea fowl. Those with sheep are increasingly adding llamas--both to provide different wool for spinning and to protect the flocks against predation from the increasing coyote population.





47. The William Leland Barn (46 Pleasant Street), built c. 1845, has cow and horse stalls on the first floor and two more stories above for hay storage, with space underneath for pigs and for manure piles. The ramps at each gable end allow one to drive a hay wagon all the way through the barn and are typical of "scientific" barns built in the mid-nineteenth century. For many decades its weathervane was the only wild turkey in town; however, in the last decade reintroduced wild turkeys have thrived and formed a number of wandering flocks that regularly visit peoples' yards to search for seeds dropped from birdfeeders or berries growing on ornamental plantings.

48. The Barber Barn (46 Forest Street) is another fine example of an early nineteenth century barn built for housing a team of horses and/or oxen, several cows, and a lot of hay. (Eighteenth century barns were for grain storage, with a cow byre as a small separate building or added wing). Originally every farm had one or more big barns; now, because of the decline of farming, most are gone.

49, 50. Farmer Braun's Herb Farm (190 Western Avenue), one of only three full-time farms left in Sherborn, specializes in growing herbs and making dried arrangements of all types, from tussy-mussies to wedding displays.





51. Raising broilers and hatching eggs was big business for Sherborn farmers in the first half of the twentieth century. The largest building was three stories, with an automatic conveyor-feeder. This more typical building, at Farmer Braun's Herb Farm (190 Western Avenue), is about the only chicken house still left in town.

52. The Grout Farm (42 Washington Street), with its remaining nineteenth and early twentieth century barns, reflects the importance of livestock raising and dairy farming in the town during those periods. Following the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 New England farmers could not compete with Midwest grain, so turned to specialty crops such as dairying, market garden crops, and cranberries. Beginning in the 1830s the Grouts became town leaders in harvesting cranberries from the many wild bogs in town. In the 1980s the farm produced and sold fine vegetables and fruits; new owners now raise horses.

53. Rockwood Street is one of three town dirt roads still existing in Sherborn. The U.S. Postal Service does not deliver mail to the houses built along the dirt roads in town, but the owners cherish their isolation and the feeling of the town as it was before roads began to be hard-surfaced in the 1930s. A number of wild dogwood trees grow here and at the end is a sweeping view of one of the Dowse apple orchards.

54. Farm Pond. Sherborn is blessed with a clear, fresh-water "Kettle pond" originally formed when the glacier melted back. Its size of 124 acres makes it a "Great Pond," a legal status set up by the Legislature of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1641-1647 to allow access for fishing to all its citizens. The town owns a small beach where townspeople can go to enjoy swimming and children can take Red Cross swimming lessons. One can join the "yacht" club of sailing dingheys; and in winter if/when the ice gets thick enough, people enjoy skating on the pond and a few hardy souls go ice-fishing. This view is from the site of a nineteenth century ice house, where blocks of pond ice were stored and sold to households and dairys throughout the summer months.

The black pipe between the bollards is a "dry" (unpressurized) hydrant which allows the volunteer Fire Department to draft water directly from a water source even when it is frozen over. With a reel truck that carries one mile of 5" diameter hose and with dry hydrants located strategically in all parts of town, the Fire Department in effect can lay an above-ground water line from a dry hydrant to a working fire in a matter of minutes.





55, 56. Pine Hill Cemetery (Cemetery Lane) was laid out in 1852 as a "garden" cemetery, with winding paths named for trees and bushes. It is now the only active burial ground in town. The iron gates and arch, once at the lane's junction with North Main Street, were restored in 1992 by volunteer Robert W. Buntin, Jr., who was awarded an artisan award for excellence by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The holding tomb behind the gate used to be needed during winter months to hold coffins until burials could take place in the spring after the ground was no longer frozen.

The cemetery is built on a large, up-faulted block of Milford pink granite. On the plain on the top are the graves and the 1890s gazebo, where mourners or visitors could meet or could shelter in bad weather. It too has been recently restored and repainted in a typical Victorian color scheme.

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